MS11622

RCM London

Please reply to: Longwood House, Westmead,
Roehampton, London. SW15.5BH.

4th. June 1971.

I believe that about a year or more ago our current secretary Dilys Orpen wrote to tell you about our plans for using the very generous contribution you made to the Society's funds; but we cannit find the copy-correspondence although I understand that she invited you to come to the Diamond Jubilee Concert of the Society and heard from you that you would probably be unable to be present.

I am now writing to tell you that it would indeed give us all much pleasure if you could indeed be with us on the evening of 7th. July at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. H.R.H. Princess Alexandra has most graciously promised to come, and she will present the Cappiani Prize to thewinner, Margaret Lucy Wilkins.

I am sure that Dilys Orpen told you that the Prize was offered to women composers of any age or nationality, the work to be asetting of words for soprano, accompanied by string trio and happ. We had world-wide publicity and received entries from as far afield as the U.S.A., Canada and South Africa, in addition to those from this country. The adjudicators had no easy task (incidentally they were Lennox Berkeley, Gordon Jacob and Ivor Walsworth), but finally awarded the prize to a young woman of 32, who is married to a lecturer in French at St. Andrews University and has two little daughters.

The work is a setting of poems attributed to Mary, Queen of Scots, and I think it will make a great impact: it is most dramatic and imaginative.

Do try to come on July 7th. It would be such a pity were you not there to see the results of your generosity to the Society..... and indeed to hear the work by Margaret Lucy Wilkins who will benefit enormously from your kindness.

Please let me know as soon as possible if there is any chance of your coming, as I want to keep for you a place among our honoured guests.

With every good wish and once more many, many thanks for making possible such a splendid competition for women musicians,

(Miss Margaret Paterson.)
Chairman.

Madame St. John Mildmay Cappiani.